

Minimizing Transportation Costs and Promoting Access to Transit

Methodology

Minimizing transportation costs is defined by Minnesota Housing in three tiers (5, 4, or 2 points) for the 7 County Metro and in two tiers (5 and 2 points) for Greater Minnesota. An interactive tool will be made available to assist applicants and staff in determining the location in these areas, through the community profiles tools at <http://www.mnhousing.gov/wcs/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1358904882055&pagename=External%2FPage%2FEXTStandardLayout>.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Tier 1 Metro - Transit Oriented Development (5 Points)

Minnesota Housing defines Transit Oriented Development areas as areas within one half mile of planned¹ or existing LRT, BRT, or Commuter Rail Stations. As of publication, lines include: Hiawatha, Central Corridor, and Southwest LRT, Northstar Commuter Rail, and stations of the Cedar Ave and I-35W BRT lines.

Tier 2 Metro – Proximity to Hi-Frequency Transit Network (4 Points)

If not in tier 1 locations, areas located within one quarter mile of a fixed route stop on Metro Transit's Hi-Frequency Network achieve the second tier.

Tier 3 Metro – Access to Public Transportation (2 Points)

For areas not achieving tier 1 and tier 2, the third tier, access to public transportation for the Twin Cities 7 County Metro, is met for locations:

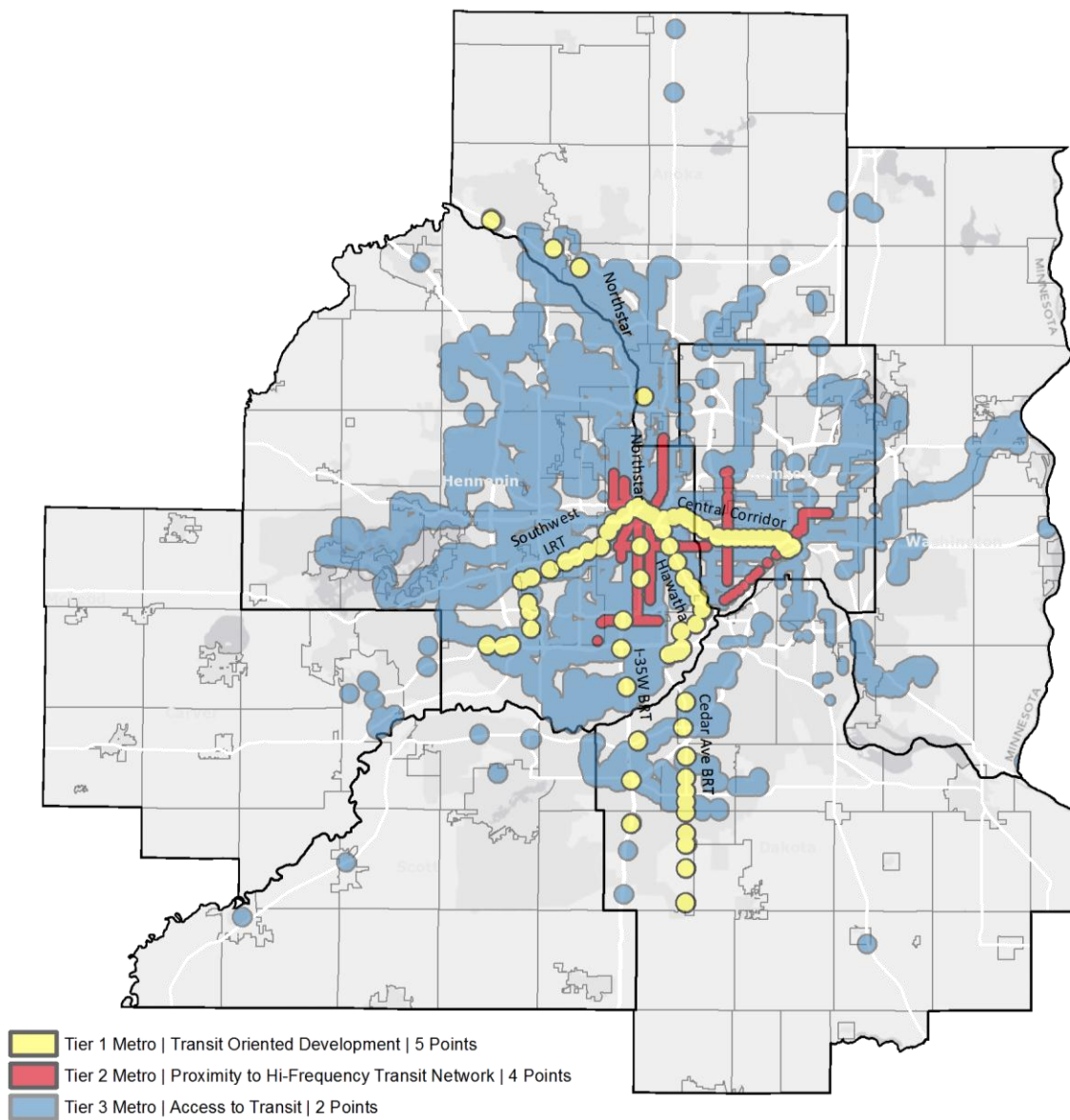
- Within one quarter mile of a high service² public transportation fixed route stop; or
- Within one half mile of an express route bus stop or park and ride lot; or

The map in figure 1 on the next page displays the three tiers in the Twin Cities Metro.

¹ Includes planned transitway stations on future transitways which are in advanced design or under construction. To be considered in advanced design, transitways would meet the following criteria: issuance of a draft EIS, station area planning underway, and adopted by the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan. Transitways entering into advanced design after publication will be eligible, but data may not be available using Minnesota Housing scoring tools.

² High service fixed route stop defined as those serviced during the time period 6 AM through 7 PM and with service approximately every half hour during that time.

Figure 1 – Transportation Tiers in the Twin Cities 7 County Metro



Map Source: Minnesota Housing analysis of MetroTransit 2012 data on Hi-Frequency Network, Planned and Existing Transit Lines, bus service, and park and rides.

Greater Minnesota

In Greater Minnesota, applicants can receive points if a project is close to jobs and one of the following are met: 1) access to fixed route transit, or, 2) access to demand response/dial-a-ride service or proximity to facilities. These options are described below.

Tier 1 Greater Minnesota (5 Points)

To achieve tier 1, developments in Greater Minnesota must be:

- located within one quarter mile of a public transportation fixed route stop, or
- located within a census tract that is close to low and moderate wage jobs³ and meet **BOTH** of the following criteria:
 - The proposed housing is within one half mile of at least four different types of facilities: supermarket/convenience store, public school, library, licensed child care center, usable park space/dedicated walking or biking trails, bank, medical or dental office, post office, laundry/dry cleaner, pharmacy, place of worship, community or civic center that is accessible to residents, arts or entertainment center, police station, fire station, fitness center/gym, restaurant, neighborhood serving retail, or office building/employment center; **AND**
 - The proposed housing has access to regular demand-response/dial-a-ride transportation service Monday through Friday during standard workday hours (6:30 AM to 7:00 PM). Applicants must provide documentation of access and availability of service and describe how the service is a viable transit alternative that could be used for transportation to work, school, shopping, services and appointments. Applicants can find service providers by county or city at the MN Department of Transportation Transit website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/riders/index.html>.

Tier 2 Greater Minnesota (2 Points)

To achieve tier 2, developments in Greater Minnesota that do not meet tier 1 criteria must be:

- Located between one quarter (1/4) and one half (1/2) mile of a public transportation fixed route stop; or
- Located within one and one half (1½) miles of a park and ride served by fixed route public transportation; or
- Located within a census tract that is close to low and moderate wage jobs⁴ and meet **ONE** of the following criteria:
 - The proposed housing is within 1 mile of at least four different types of facilities, as specified in the 5 point discussion, **OR**.
 - The proposed housing has access to demand response/dial-a-ride services during standard workday hours as specified in the tier 1 discussion.

³ For urban tracts (<=25 square miles), tracts must have 2,000 jobs within 5 miles. For large, rural tracts (>25 square miles), tracts must have 5,000 jobs within 5 miles. Smaller census tracts reflect job and population centers. Low and moderate wage jobs are those with a monthly earning less than or equal to \$3,333, using LED data from the US Census (2010). Jobs that are located within 5 miles of a census tract boundary are included in the calculation.

⁴ Ibid.

The maps and tables on the following pages provide detail to support the Greater Minnesota tiered transportation priority

- The maps in figure 2 on page 5 display fixed route stops and $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile buffers in Duluth, Rochester, and St. Cloud.
- The map in figure 3 on page 6 displays the census tracts that are close to low and moderate wage jobs for 2010.
- Table 1 beginning on page 7 lists these census tracts. Find detailed maps by location on Minnesota Housing's website: <http://www.mnhousing.gov>⁵.

Applicants for a development in Greater Minnesota must submit a map identifying the location of the project with exact distances to the eligible public transportation station/stop and include a copy of the route, span, and frequency of services. Applicants can find service providers by county or city at the MN Department of Transportation Transit website, <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/riders/index.html>

.

⁵
<http://www.mnhousing.gov/wcs/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1360787836080&pagename=External%2FPage%2FEXTIFrameLayout>

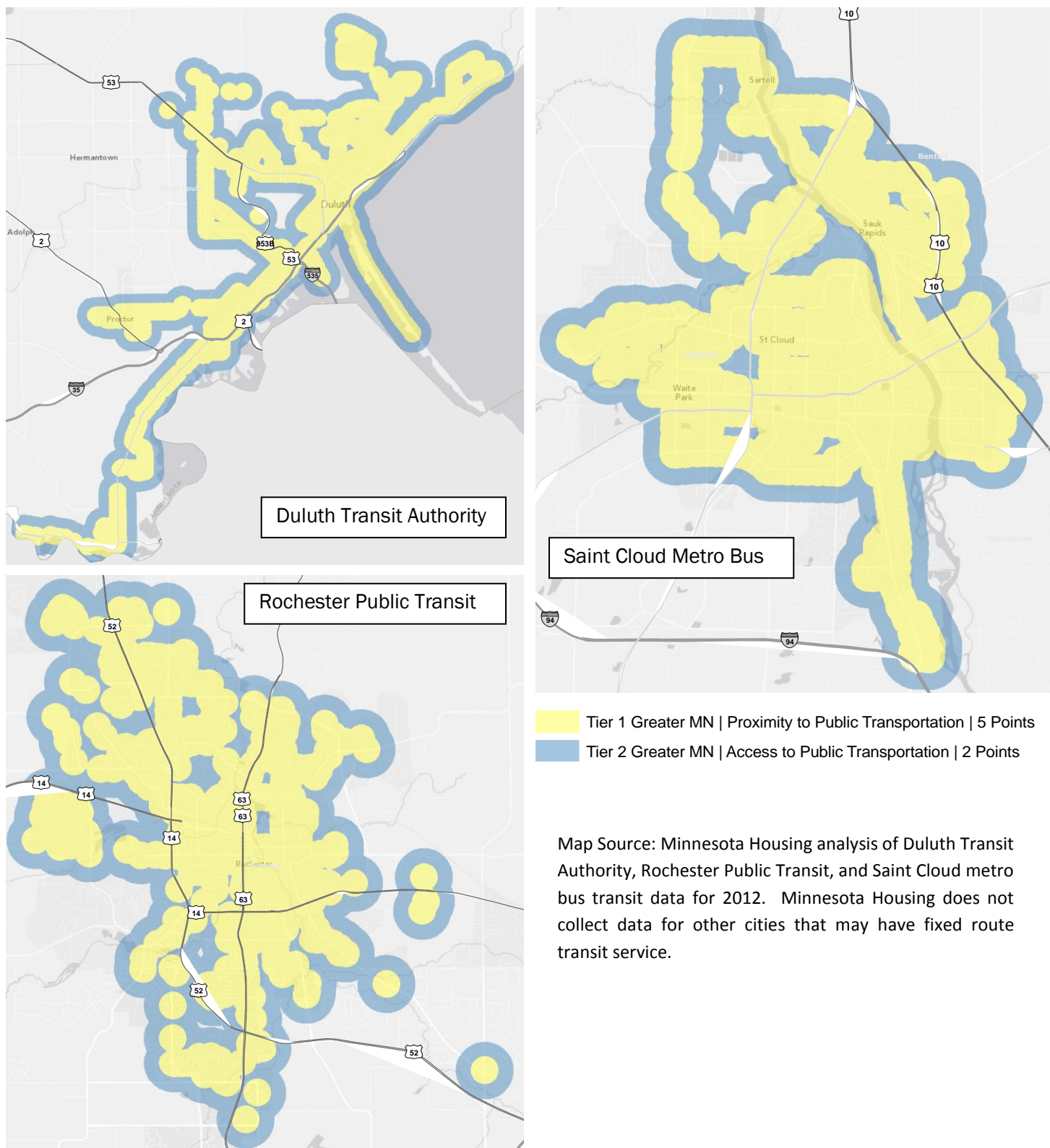
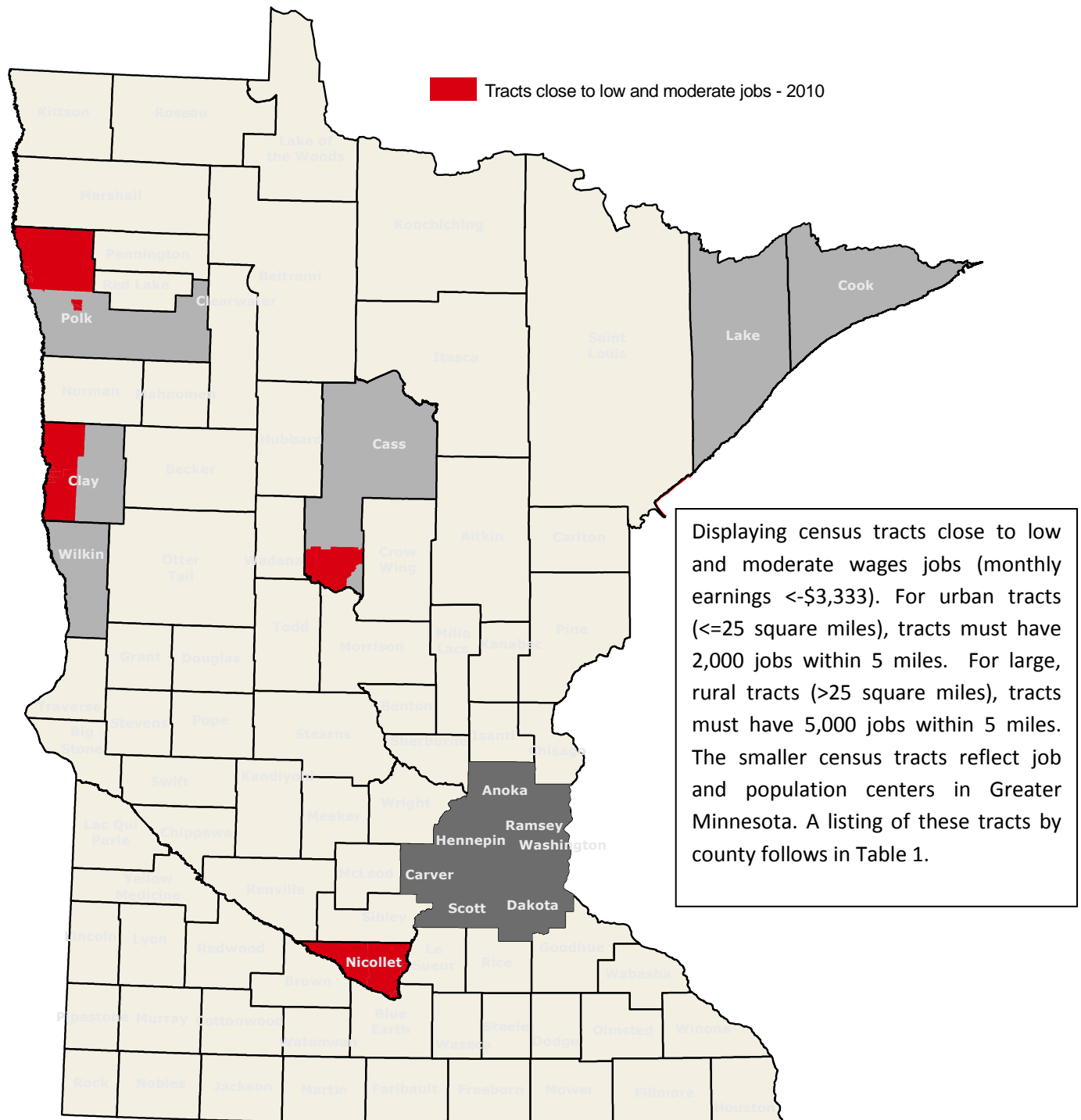
Figure 2 – Transit in Duluth, Rochester, and Saint Cloud

Figure 3 – Jobs in Greater Minnesota



Map Source: Minnesota Housing analysis US Census Local Employment Dynamics program data, 2010.

Table 1 Census tracts close to low and moderate wage jobs in Greater Minnesota by county

County Tract	County Tract	County Tract	County Tract	County Tract
Becker	960102	Crow Wing	Hubbard	950100
450300	960200	950800	70100	950200
450400	960300	950900	70600	950600
450500	960400	951000	Isanti	Lyon
450600	960500	951100	130100	360200
450700	960700	951200	130200	360300
Beltrami	Carlton	951301	130301	360400
450100	70100	951302	130302	360500
450200	70200	951400	130400	Marshall
450600	70300	Dodge	130501	80100
450701	70400	950500	130502	80200
450702	940000	Douglas	Itasca	Martin
Benton	Cass	450500	480300	790200
20202	960802	450600	480700	790300
20205	Chippewa	450701	480801	790500
20206	950300	450702	480802	790600
20300	950600	450800	480900	McLeod
21101	Chisago	450900	481000	950200
21102	110301	451000	Jackson	950300
21200	110302	Freeborn	480100	950400
Blue Earth	110401	180100	480400	950700
170100	110402	180200	Kanabec	Meeker
170200	110501	180300	480300	560300
170300	110502	180400	Kandiyohi	560400
170400	Clay	180500	770900	Mille Lacs
170500	20100	180600	780400	170700
170600	20202	180700	780500	Morrison
170700	20300	180800	780600	780200
170800	20400	180900	780700	780300
170900	20500	181000	780800	780600
171101	20600	Goodhue	781000	780700
171202	30102	80101	781200	780800
171300	30103	80102	Koochiching	Mower
171600	30104	80200	790100	100
Brown	30106	80300	790200	200
960101	30107	80400	Le Sueur	300

County Tract	County Tract	County Tract	County Tract	County Tract
410	1502	Rice	2400	30402
600	1503	70200	2600	30403
800	1601	70300	2900	30404
900	1602	70400	3000	30502
1000	1603	70501	3300	30503
Nicollet	1701	70503	3400	30504
480100	1702	70504	3600	31500
480200	1703	70601	3700	Sibley
480300	1900	70602	3800	170198
480400	2200	70700	10100	Stearns
480501	2300	70800	10200	301
480502	Otter Tail	70901	10300	302
480600	960600	70902	10400	401
Nobles	960800	Rock	10500	402
105100	960900	570200	10600	500
105300	961000	Roseau	11100	601
105400	961100	970100	12100	602
105500	961700	970400	12200	701
105600	Pennington	Saint Louis	12300	801
Olmsted	90100	100	12400	901
100	90200	200	12500	1001
200	90300	300	12600	10101
300	90400	400	12800	10102
400	90500	500	13000	10200
500	Pipestone	600	13100	11100
600	460200	700	13200	11200
901	460300	900	13300	11301
902	Polk	1000	13400	11304
903	20100	1100	13500	11400
1000	20200	1200	15100	11600
1100	20300	1300	15200	Steele
1201	20400	1400	15600	960100
1202	20600	1600	15700	960200
1203	20700	1700	15800	960300
1301	Pope	1800	Sherburne	960400
1302	970400	1900	30101	960500
1401	Redwood	2000	30102	960600
1402	750200	2200	30200	960700
1501	750300	2300	30300	Todd

County Tract
790600
790700
Wadena
480200
Waseca
790100
790300
790400

County Tract
790500
Watsonwan
950200
Winona
670100
670200
670300
670400

County Tract
670500
670600
670700
670800
670900
Wright
100100
100202

County Tract
100203
100204
100300
100701
100702
100703
100801
100802

County Tract
100900
101000
101100
Yellow Medicine
970100